(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government had received any protest from the Safdarjung Hospital in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital has 1626 beds. Due to constraints of beds and AIIMS Hospital's Policy on non admission in case of non-availability of beds about 80 patients are referred to Safdarjung Hospital daily in the Institute's ambulance after stabilising their condition.

(c) No such protest has been received in the recent past from Safdarjung Hospital.

Effect of sub Standard Drugs on Epileptic Children

3725. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a news-item titled Experts voice concern over sub-standard epilepsy drugs which appeared in the "Times of India", dated 20th January, 2000;

(b) whether a veiw was expressed at a meeting to discuss issue of childhood neurological problems where experts from SAARC countries participated that varying doses of formulations of epilepsy drugs can produce different results in people; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken by Government on that account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) As per the information available from the organisers of the conference, the SAARC expert group has expressed a view that anti-epileptic drug formulations available in SAARC countries has varying composition and this may lead to under/over dosages.

(c) Manufacturing licenses for the drug formulations in India are granted by the State Licensing Authorities. The various anti-epileptic formulations marketed in the country would be examined in consultation with the experts for streamlining the composition of these drugs.